

**104 Emerald Lake Road  
Columbia, SC 29209-4243**

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January 5, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:


I am writing to express my happiness upon hearing the DOJ has ended its three-year antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft with a strong settlement. I support Microsoft and am anxious to see this agreement between Microsoft and the government finalized. I believe this settlement is more than fair to both Microsoft and its competition, and I really do hope that there will be no further action taken against Microsoft at the federal level.

This settlement has been reached after extensive negotiations. This settlement allows Microsoft to continue designing and marketing its innovative software, while benefiting the technology industry as a whole. Among other regulations, under the settlement Microsoft will be unable to take retaliatory measures against hardware companies for putting Microsoft software on a computer that also has non-Microsoft programming on it. This way, hardware makers can be more responsive to their clientele.

Microsoft has pledged to carry out all provisions of this agreement, and the government has created a technical oversight committee to test Microsoft compliance.

I believe that this settlement will benefit the economy, the computer industry, and consumers. I believe that it will be most productive to allow Microsoft to devote its resources to innovation, rather than litigation. Please see to it that the settlement is finalized and enacted as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Wilbur Goodwin

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond